

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner identified three inventions said to be distinct and separate. By the present Response, Applicants elect one of the inventions identified by the Examiner, with traverse, as summarized below, and have canceled other claims. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 23-36 and 38 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Applicants first wish to point out that the Examiner indicated that claims 1-38 were pending in the application. However, by an Amendment filed on January 7, 2004, certain claims were amended, while other claims were canceled. In particular, claims 1, 2, 7, 16, 17, 23, 25, 27 and 36 were amended, and claims 18-22 and 37 were canceled. Accordingly, prior to the Examiner's restriction requirement, claims 1-17, 23-36, and 38 were pending. Applicants hereby respond to the Examiner's requirement based upon that claim status.

The Examiner identified three groups of claims said to cover separate and distinct inventions. Applicants hereby elect to proceed on the basis of Group II identified by the Examiner, including claims 23-35. Accordingly, claims 1-22 have been canceled by this Response.

The present election is made with traverse. Claim 23, and the claims depending therefrom relate to a method of manufacturing an article. Claim 36 relates to a similar method, but adds compacting an insulated preformed winding resulting from the previously recited acts. The Examiner indicated that the inventions of claims 23 and 36 are unrelated. In fact, the invention recited in claim 36 is believed merely to add further processing to the method recited in claim 23. As such, the methods would, in a practical implementation, be used together (i.e. the acts of claim 23 are accomplished if those of claim 36 are performed). Accordingly, it is believed that the restriction as between claim 23 and claim 36 is improper. Similarly, claim 38 recites an article resulting from the

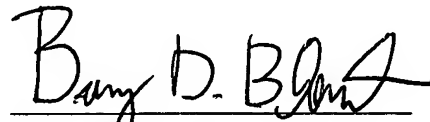
method of claim 36. Clearly, these claims are related, as indicated by the Examiner's classification of these claims in Group III.

Accordingly, claims 36 and 38 have been indicated as "withdrawn" pending the Examiner's decision regarding the finality of the restriction requirement. The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider the requirement and examine claims 36 and 38 on the merits in case the restriction is relaxed with regards to claims 23-35 and 36 and 38, and to indicate such reconsideration and examination in the next office action on the merits.

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Barry D. Blount
Reg. No. 35,069
FLETCHER YODER
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545